

Remarks

Applicants thank the Examiner for his careful consideration of this application and for the helpful Interview held on November 17, 2005 and for the helpful meeting of January 23, 2006. Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested in view of the amendments above and the remarks below.

Upon entry of the above amendments, Claims 1-38 remain pending in this application, with Claims 1, 4, 29, 31, and 35 being independent claims.

Applicants acknowledge with gratitude the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 4-21 and 28 and the allowance of Claims 29-34, as discussed at Pages 3-4 of the Office Action. Applicants have now amended Claim 4 to incorporate the limitations of Claim 1 in a form similar to that in which Claim 1 existed when Claim 4 was first indicated as being allowable. It is, therefore, respectfully submitted that Claims 4-21 and 28 are now in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the objections to these claims be withdrawn.

At Pages 4-8 of the Office Action, Claims 1-3, 22, 23, 26, and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the article by Chun et al. At Pages 9-15 of the Office Action, Claims 1, 22-27, and 35-38 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by the article by Antani et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claims 35-38 will be considered first. These claims, as amended, are directed to "[a] method of processing video to extract at least one static non-pure-text graphical overlay." It is

noted, initially, that the word "graphical" is used throughout these claims to differentiate from text overlays, and this usage is also consistent with the usage of "graphical" throughout the specification (see, for example, paragraphs [0001] to [0004], [0010], [0011], [0057] to [0061]). Hence, the term "non-pure-text graphical overlay" is supported by the specification, given that "graphical" is being used to mean something other than text. It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited prior art addresses the question of extracting static non-pure-text graphical overlays, as the cited prior art (Chun et al. and Antani et al.) is directed to the extraction of text, only (and not even text overlays), and for at least this reason, Claims 35-38 are allowable over the cited prior art.

Turning now to Claim 1, Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly state that it is directed to "[a] method of processing video to extract one or more static overlays." The method includes steps of detecting at least one potential overlay and verifying that each at least one potential overlay is an actual static overlay that was previously added to the video sequence. It is respectfully submitted that neither Chun et al. nor Antani et al. is directed to extracting one or more static overlays and that neither Chun et al. nor Antani et al. contains these steps.

In particular, both Chun et al. and Antani et al. are directed to methods for detecting text in video. However, Applicants note that neither one of these discriminates between text that is overlaid on the video and text that is part of the video, for example, a sign that appears in a video scene. The algorithms in both of these algorithms would recognize the words on the sign as being text, while Applicants' method would reject this as not being an overlay.

This is accounted for by the fact that neither Chun et al. nor Antani et al. is directed to detecting a potential overlay, and **neither reference verifies that a potential overlay is an actual static overlay, as opposed to merely being text that is part of the original video scene** (otherwise, text that is part of the scene would be differentiated from overlay text). In contrast, both of these references detect **all** text, whether a part of the video scene or contained in an overlay superimposed on the video scene, and whether static or not. Hence, they cannot be performing the verifying, as is done in the claimed invention.

During the aforementioned Interview, a question was raised as to whether Antani et al., in performing optional temporal filtering, as discussed at page 833, col. 2, may be suggesting performing some type of verification. However, review of this passage reveals that Antani et al. (optionally) performs such filtering *"before performing segmentation"* (i.e., prior to processing the video to extract text), in order to ameliorate noise problems. In view of this, the temporal filtering of Antani et al., if used, cannot be performing overlay verification, as Antani et al. would use it *prior to* segmentation (i.e., prior to identifying possible text).

Returning to Claim 35, it, too, contains, among other recitations, a limitation that verification that a potential overlay is an actual overlay (and now also clarifies that the claimed method is directed to extraction of graphical overlays that are not pure text (as noted above)). Therefore, for these additional reasons, Claim 35 is also allowable over the cited prior art (i.e., the prior art references do not disclose or suggest verifying that a potential overlay is an actual overlay).

Applicants: LI et al.
Appl. No. 09/935,610

All of the other rejected claims (Claims 2, 3, 22-27, and 36-38) depend from either Claim 1 or Claim 35. For at least the reasons cited above, it is respectfully submitted that all of these claims are allowable over the cited prior art, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections and an indication of the allowance of their claims.

Applicants: LI et al.
Appl. No. 09/935,610

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 9, 2006



Jeffrey W. Gluck, Ph.D.

Registration No. 44,457

VENABLE LLP

P.O. Box 34385

Washington, D.C. 20043-9998

Telephone: (202) 344-4000

Direct Dial: (202) 344-8017

Facsimile: (202) 344-8300